



المركز العربي للأبحاث ودراسة السياسات  
Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies

# The GCC Countries: Politics and Economics in Light of the Regional and International Shifts and Changes

December 6-8, 2014

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[Participants](#)



# Time Table



**Saturday, December 6, 2014**

**Registration 8:00 – 9:00 am**

Opening Remarks 9:00 – 9:15 am

**9:15 – 10:45 am**

**Lusail Hall**

## **Identity, State and Society in the Arab Gulf**

Chair: Baqer al-Najjar

**Ali Fakhro**

Identity Challenges in the GCC States

**Asma Abdullah al-Attiyah**

Challenges to Identity in the GCC States in a Changing, Diverse, and Multicultural World

**Fatima al-Sayegh**

Identity as a Social Challenge for the GCC States

**Ashraf Osman**

The Rise of Iran and the Formation of Identity in GCC Countries

Coffee Break 10:45 – 11:00 am

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Lusail Hall 1**

**The Geopolitical Importance of  
the Arab Gulf Region**

Chair: Abdel Hadi al-Ajami

**Ammar Jaffal**

Change and Continuity in the Strategic Importance of  
the Arab Gulf Region

**Sayyar al-Jamil**

The Geo-history of the Vital Space of the  
Contemporary Arab Gulf

**Nasser bin Ghaith**

Oil: From a Source of National Income to a Source  
of National Security

**Lusail Hall 2**

**Foreign and Arab Communities in the GCC  
States: Reality and Impact**

Chair: Abdel Razzaq al-Shayji

**Aicha Ettaib**

Foreign Labor in the GCC states: a Sociological Reading  
of Current Economic and Social Challenges

**Anis Fawzi Qasim**

The Legal and Political Status of the Palestinian Communities in  
the Arab Gulf

**Bassem Serhan**

Palestinian Contributions to the Rise and Development  
of GCC Countries

**Majid al-Ansari**

A Minority of Citizens: The Effect of Values on Trust  
in Non-Qatari Residents

Coffee Break 12:30 – 1:00 pm

1:00 – 2:30 pm

**Lusail Hall 1**

**The GCC and Regional Security**

Chair: Sarhan al-Otaibi

**Raghid el-Solh**

The GCC as a Sub-Regional Order in the Arab World

**Dhafer al-Ajmi**

Gulf Security in Western Non-Conventional  
Military Arrangements

**Adel Suleiman**

Security Dynamics in the Gulf Region and the Role of Internal  
and External Regional Actors

**Suhaim Al-Thani**

The GCC and the Regional Environment: The Challenges and the  
Strategies to Confront Them

**Lusail Hall 2**

**Demographic Reality in the GCC:  
Challenges and Opportunities**

Chair: Omar al-Shehabi

**Kaltham al-Ghanim**

The Demographic Structure of the Arab Gulf States: Effects on  
Identity and Security

**Ahmed Fouad Ibrahim al-Maghazi**

Demography and Development in the GCC States

**Mahmoud Murad**

Future Prospects for Population Growth and the Workforce in  
the GCC States

Lunch Break

## Opening Ceremony 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Lecture: **Abdul Rahman bin Hamad Al Attiyah**

The Gulf Cooperation Council Experience: Challenges and Paths to Reform

Lecture: **Jamal Benomar**

The GCC's Approach to Regional Crises: Lessons from the Yemeni Experience

Symposium: The Future Prospects of the GCC in Light of the Current Circumstances

**Mohammed Ghanem al-Rumaihi**

Professor of Sociology at Kuwait University

**Anwar Majid Eshki**

Director of the Middle East Center for Strategic Studies, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

**Baqer al-Najjar**

Professor of Sociology at the University of Bahrain

**Fatima Al Sayegh**

Professor of History and Society at the UAE University

**Abdullah Baabood**

Director of the Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University

Sunday, December 7, 2014

9:00 - 10:30 am

Lusail Hall 1

### GCC Relations with Asian Powers

Chair: Qais al-Nouri

**Aftab Kamal Pasha**

India and the GCC Countries: Domestic, Regional  
and Global Challenges

**Dania Thafer**

Is Kuwait Strategically Shifting Economic Ties Eastward?

**Jeongmin Seo**

Mutual Interests between South Korea and the GCC in the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century: From Economic to Military Cooperation

Lusail Hall 2

### Past Experience and Future Prospects of the GCC

Chair: Khalil al-Khalil

**Omar al-Hassan**

Expansion and Institutionalization of the GCC

**Abdullah Baabood**

GCC Integration: Potential Outcomes and Obstacles

**Taher Kanaan**

The International Monetary System and the Political Economy  
of the GCC

**Nacer Gherbi**

A Common Gulf Currency and the Challenges of Meeting the  
Standards for an Optimal Currency Region

Coffee Break 10:30 – 11:00 am



11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Lusail Hall 1

**GCC Relations with International Powers**

Chair: Abdullah Abdel Razzaq Bahjaj

**Abdullah al-Shayji**

A New Approach to GCC–American Relations: a Future Vision

**Steven Hook**

American Decline and Systemic Turbulence:  
The Middle East Connection

**Bichara Khader**

The EU and the GCC (1981-2014): Distant Neighbors,  
Close Partners

**Ma Lirong**

An Analysis of China's "Silk Road Strategy" and the Sino-GCC  
Cooperation Model

Lusail Hall 2

**Food, Water and Environmental Security in  
the Arab Gulf States**

Chair: Elnour Hamad

**Mastora Sahal**

Food Security in the GCC States

**Muhammad Fahad al-Rashed**

Water Security as a Chief Priority for the GCC Countries

**Waleed Zubari**

Water Issues and Environmental Concerns in the GCC Countries:  
A Holistic Perspective

Coffee Break 12:30 – 1:00 pm

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Lusail Hall 1

**GCC Relations with Iran: Limits to Cooperation and Confrontation**

Chair: Shamlan al-Issa

**Fatima al-Smadi**

The Gulf in Iranian Discourse and Strategy: Security, Energy, and Future Role

**Al-Sayyid Mustafa Abu al-Khair**

The Legal Status of the Islands Disputed by Iran and the UAE

**Muhammad bin Saad al-Muqaddam**

Omani-Iranian Relations, 1971-2014

**Joseph Kéchichian**

Saudi Arabia – Iran Relations: Current Issues

Lusail Hall 2

**Human Development and Education in the Arab Gulf States**

Chair: Hassan al-Derham

**Ali Watfa**

The Developmental Role of Education in the Arab Gulf States

**Martin Hvidt**

The Transformation of the Gulf Economies into Knowledge-Based Economies: Motivational Issues Related to the Tertiary Educational Sector

**Dima Jamali**

Corporate Social Responsibility in Oil and Gas Companies

**Lulwa Rashed al-Khater**

Drafting Public Policy in Qatar: The Case of Primary and Secondary Education Reform

Lunch Break 2:30 – 4:00 pm

4:00 – 5:30 pm

**Lusail Hall 1**

**Gulf Foreign Policy Directions: Shifts and Priorities**

Chair: Tawfiq al-Saif

**Khalid al-Mezaini**

GCC States' Foreign Policies and State Building:  
Between Secular and Religious Orientations

**Meshari Hamad al-Ruwaih**

GCC States' Strategic Thinking and Behavior Towards  
Regional Conflicts

**Jawad al-Hamad**

GCC States' Foreign and Security Policies in  
the Wake of the Arab Spring

**Emma Soubrier**

Shifting Lines in Qatar's Relations with World Powers:  
The Strategic Partnership with France in Focus

**Lusail Hall 2**

**Natural Resources in the Gulf:  
Opportunities and Risks**

Chair: Abdullah al-Nibari

**Naji Abi-Aad**

Natural Gas in the GCC: Challenges and Opportunities

**Ahmed Saddam**

A Dynamic Analysis of Energy Production and its Aggregate  
Consumption in GCC Countries

**Paul Stevens**

The Shale Technology Revolution and the Implications  
for the GCC

Coffee Break 5:30 – 6:00 pm

**Distinguished Lecture 6:00 – 7:30 pm**

**Immanuel Wallerstein**

The Decline of US Power and its Consequences for Geopolitics in the Gulf

Monday, December 8, 2014

9:00 - 10:30 am

Lusail Hall 1

## Foreign Policies of the GCC States Towards the Arab Spring

Chair: Yasin Numan

**Mohammed Ghanem al-Rumaihi**

The GCC and the Arab Spring: Playing the Lottery without an Insurance Policy

**Amjad Jibril**

Saudi Policy Towards the Arab Revolutions, 2010-2014: Factors, Attitudes, and Consequences

**Liqaq Makki**

Media Content and the Arab Spring Revolutions: A Study of the Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya Websites

**Bernd Kaussler**

Towards Middle East Power Equilibrium: Tracing Qatar's Foreign Policy Trajectory and its Impact on Regional Security

Lusail Hall 2

## Women's Rights and Social Issues in Arab Gulf States

Chair: Hessa al-Thani

**Amal al-Malki**

Citizenship Rights and Women

**Hatoon Ajwad al-Fassi**

Women in the Gulf: Challenges for Increased Participation and Representation

**Fawziyya Abu Khalid**

The Impact of Oil on Women in the Gulf: The Case of Saudi Arabia

Coffee Break 10:30 – 11:00 am

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Lusail Hall 1

**Regional Dynamics and Intra-GCC Relations**

Chair: Khalid al-Jaber

**Maryam Rashid al-Khater**

Twitter's Impact on Political Dialogue in the Arab Gulf States

**Mohammed al-Misfer**

Ahwaz (Arabistan): The Forgotten Gulf Arabs

**Ahmed al-Ismaili**

The effect of Omani-Iranian Relations on GCC Integration

**Bülent Aras**

Turkey and Qatar: An Emerging Partnership after the Arab Spring

Lusail Hall 2

**Issues of Reform in the GCC States**

Chair: Abdel Rida Asiri

**Hadi Mashaan**

Political Reform in the GCC States

**Said Sultan al-Hashimi**

Reform in the Arab Gulf States: Between a Rights-based and a Political Approach

**Abdullah al-Beraidi**

The Social Contract, Identity, and Political Economy in the GCC States

**Rhea Abraham**

Confronting the Challenge of Political Reforms in the GCC States: Implementing Domestic Political Transition Through Regional Integration

Coffee Break 12:30 – 1:00 pm

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Lusail Hall 1

**The GCC and Regional Crises:  
The Priority of Security**

Chair: Khalid al-Dakhil

**Abdulwahab al-Qassab**

Iraq and the GCC: Threats, Challenges, and Prospects

**Abdul Naser al-Muwadea**

GCC States and the Unrest in Yemen

**Maan Talaa**

Arab Gulf States' Policies toward the Syrian Crisis

**Birol Baskan**

Turkey and the Military Takeover in Egypt: Impact on Turkey's  
Relations with Saudi Arabia and the UAE

Lusail Hall 2

**Economic Challenges in the Arab Gulf States**

Chair: Abdou Moussa

**Khalid al-Khater**

The GCC States and the Challenges of Economic Stability,  
Sustainable Growth, and Job Creation

**Maymunah Ben Aichouba and Rafika Ben Aichouba**

Gulf Sovereign Wealth Funds: Requirements for Their Governance

**Slimane Zouari Ferhat**

Gulf Sovereign Wealth Funds: Between the Requirements of  
Investment-Receiving States and Opportunities  
for Income Diversification

**Rasha Mustafa Awad**

Economic Diversification in the GCC Countries: Current Reality  
and Future Prospects

Lunch and Closing Remarks

# Participants



| Participant                   | Biography  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Abdel Aziz al-Uwaishiq</b> | is a commissioner for international economic relations at the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council. He is also head of the Economic Integration Department and Studies at the GCC General Secretariat. He formerly served as an economic consultant with the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations, New York. |
| <b>Abdel Hadi al-Ajami</b>    | is chair of the History Department at the University of Kuwait. He holds a PhD in Islamic history from Durham University, UK. He has published widely both regionally and internationally and is active in Kuwaiti and Gulf political affairs.   |
| <b>Abdel Nabi al-Akari</b>    | is a Bahraini researcher, translator, and rights activist, who heads the Bahraini Society for Transparency. A graduate of the American University in Beirut, he has many published works and translations.   |
| <b>Abdel Razzaq al-Shayji</b> | heads the management board of the Qiyas Group for Political Consultancy and is editor-in-chief of the annual Dimensions Report on Strategic Studies. He is an advisor in the Kuwaiti National Assembly and a consultant on polling at the Kuwaitiyah newspaper.  |
| <b>Abdel Rida Asiri</b>       | is dean of the Social Science Faculty and professor of political science at the University of Kuwait. He graduated from the Teachers' Institute in 1968 and received his BA, MA and PhD in political science in the United States between 1970 and 1980. He is the author of many publications.  |
| <b>Abdel Wahhab al-Anisi</b>  | is general secretary of the Yemeni Islah Party. He became an MP in 1988, and after the reunification of Yemen in 1990 he became an Islah MP in the unitary parliament. He was appointed a presidential advisor in 2012.  |



| Participant                              | Biography   |
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| <b>Abdou Moussa</b>                      | is a researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, focusing on political development, democratic reform and preserving human rights in Egypt and the Arab Region. Over the last two decades he has been a consultant for international assistance organizations, including UNDP and the Canadian International Development Agency. Moussa obtained his MA in Political Science from Cairo University in 2005, where his thesis focused on the impact of European identity politics on Euro-Mediterranean relations.  |
| <b>Abdul Naser al-Muwadea</b>            | is a researcher on political, social, economic, and media issues with a focus on Yemen. He is a political analyst and adviser, and a trainer on a variety of topics such as election campaigns, political participation, negotiation, and the electoral system. He has published numerous research papers and articles on democracy, government, and political reform in Yemen.   |
| <b>Abdul Rahman bin Hamad Al Attiyah</b> | was the fourth secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) between 2002-2011, and since 2001 he is Qatar's Minister of State. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1972, and served as Qatar's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, France, Yemen and Djibouti, and as a delegate to the United Nations and other international organizations including service as Qatar's permanent representative to the International Fund for Agricultural Development in Rome from 1978-1981. From 1998-2001, he was undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has been awarded the Medal of State. |
| <b>Abdullah Abdel Razzaq Bahjaj</b>      | is an Omani scholar and journalist, who has written a near-daily column in the Omani al-Watan newspaper for nine years. He has a daily show on television devoted to political and economic analysis. He is a lecturer at Dhofar University specializing in human rights, and has published widely in Arabic periodicals. He holds a PhD in public law from Mohamed V University in Morocco.  |
| <b>Abdullah al-Alyan</b>                 | is an Omani writer and journalist, who writes weekly pieces in the Omani newspapers Oman and al-Royah, and one in the Qatari al-Sharq. He has an MA in law and has published many books and articles.   |
| <b>Abdullah al-Beraidi</b>               | is a professor of management and organizational behavior at Qassim University in Saudi Arabia, with numerous works published on social and political issues in the Arab Gulf states. He obtained a master's degree in accounting from King Saud University and a doctorate in Business Administration, specializing in organizational behavior, from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom.  |

| Participant                  | Biography   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Abdullah al-Nibari</b>    | is general secretary of the Democratic Forum, head of the Kuwait Economic Society, and a former member of the Kuwaiti National Assembly.  |
| <b>Abdullah al-Shayji</b>    | is a professor of international relations at the University of Kuwait, where he previously served as chairman of the Department of Political Science. He is also a visiting professor of political science at the George Washington University, Washington DC. He has served as a special advisor to the head of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, and as consul in the Media Office of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Lebanon. Al-Shayji earned his doctorate from the University of Texas, Austin.   |
| <b>Abdullah al-Sufyani</b>   | is vice dean of the Community College at Majmaah University, Saudi Arabia, and associate professor of the philosophy of education. He is a consultant at the Namaa Center for Research and Studies, and director of the Adab World Encyclopedia.  |
| <b>Abdullah Baabood</b>      | is the director of the Gulf Studies Program at Qatar University's College of Arts and Sciences. Baabood completed MA degrees in Business Administration and International Relations in the UK, before completing his PhD in Political Economy in Britain.   |
| <b>Abdulwahab al-Qassab</b>  | is an associate researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS). Al-Qassab was a member of the Iraqi Armed Forces from 1966 to 1991, and retired with the rank of Rear Admiral. As a researcher, he worked with the Center for Arab World Studies, Al-Mustansiriya University, and the Center for International Studies, Baghdad University. He earned his PhD in Strategic Studies from Campbell University in North Carolina, USA.  |
| <b>Abeer Ibrahim Omnayna</b> | is professor of political science and chair of the Department of Public Administration at the University of Benghazi, Libya. She is a member of the advisory board at the Center of Research of Political, Economic and Social Studies.   |
| <b>Adel Suleiman</b>         | is the president of The Strategic Dialogue Forum for the study of defense and civil-military relations. A retired major general, Suleiman is a researcher and writer specialized in military and strategic affairs and previously worked as director of the International Center for Future and Strategic Studies. He holds master's degrees in military science from the Command and Staff College in Egypt and in modern history from Ain Shams University. He was also awarded the PSC ("Passed Staff Course", equivalent to a doctorate) from the Pakistan Army's Quetta Academy. |

| Participant                                  | Biography  |
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| <p><b>Aftab Kamal Pasha</b></p>              | <p>is a professor at the Center for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, where he has served as director of the Gulf Studies Program. He has also served as director of the Maulana Azad Center for Indian Culture, Cairo. Pasha has been a research fellow at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. He received his M.Phil. and PhD in international studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University.</p> |
| <p><b>Ahmed al-Ismaili</b></p>               | <p>is adviser to the Minister of Religious Affairs in the Sultanate of Oman and a researcher in religious thought and social studies. He has written many peer-reviewed articles in Arabic and French. Al-Ismaili holds a master's in religious thought from Zaytuna University in Tunisia and a PhD in theology from Sorbonne University.</p>   |
| <p><b>Ahmed Awad</b></p>                     | <p>founded and is now director of the Phenix Center for Economic and Informatic Studies in Amman, Jordan. He is a researcher in socioeconomic issues, and an expert in quantitative analysis and the design of surveys and opinion polls. He has produced many studies and reports in the social and economic fields for many international organizations as well as Arab and global NGOs.</p>   |
| <p><b>Ahmed Fouad Ibrahim al-Maghazi</b></p> | <p>is a professor at The Hague University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands (distance education), an expert at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and a reviewer at the Research Council of the Sultanate of Oman. His research interests are in population, development and political and strategic studies, with numerous published peer-reviewed studies. He obtained his doctorate in Demographic Geography from the University of Cairo.</p>               |
| <p><b>Ahmed Jamil Azm</b></p>                | <p>is a lecturer and head of the International Master's Program at the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies, Bir Zeit University, Palestine. He has been a visiting researcher at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at Cambridge, UK. He has contributed to a number of books and has published articles in the field of conflict management.</p>   |
| <p><b>Ahmed Saddam</b></p>                   | <p>is a scholar at the Faculty of Administration and Economics, University of Basra, Iraq. He has previously worked at the Center for Arab Gulf Studies and the Center for Basra and Arab Gulf Studies. Saddam holds a MSc. in transport economics from the University of Basra and a PhD in international trade from the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.</p>  |

| Participant                                  | Biography   |
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| <p><b>Aicha Ettaib</b></p>                   | <p>is an associate professor of sociology and social work at the Faculty of Arts Department of the University of Dammam. She previously worked as a development consultant with a number of Arab and international bodies including the World Bank, the German Development Bank, the Japanese Bank for Cooperation, and the League of Arab States. She holds an MA and a PhD in sociology from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Tunis.</p>          |
| <p><b>Ali Fakhro</b></p>                     | <p>is a member of the Board of Trustees of several Arab research institutions including the Center for Arab Unity Studies, the Arab Organization for the Fight Against Corruption, the Bahrain Center for Studies and Research and the Institute for Palestine Studies. He has served as Bahrain's Minister of Health from 1970 to 1982, and Education Minister from 1982 to 1995, and then as Bahrain's ambassador to France.</p>  |
| <p><b>Ali Muhammad al-Ghamidi</b></p>        | <p>is a journalist and bureau chief for the newspaper Ukaz in al-Bahah, Saudi Arabia. He served for seven years as an editor at Al-Hayat and two years as bureau chief for the Saudi Al-Sharq newspaper in al-Bahah. He previously worked at the Academic Institute of Iman Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University as a teacher of Sharia sciences for 27 years. He received his PhD in Jurisprudence and Law from Ez-zitouna University, Tunisia in 2001.</p>                          |
| <p><b>Ali Watfa</b></p>                      | <p>is a professor of educational psychology in both Damascus University and Kuwait University. A member of the Arab Writers Union, the Syrian Writers Association, the Global Network for Human Rights Education and many other Arab organizations, his books have been widely translated and his educational research published in Arab and Islamic educational journals. He holds an MA and PhD in Educational Sociology from Cannes University, France.</p>                        |
| <p><b>Al-Sadiq al-Faqih</b></p>              | <p>is general secretary of the Arab Thought Forum. He has worked in the Qatari Foreign Ministry and has political and diplomatic experience in the office of the President of Sudan. He has published many papers and articles, and has a PhD in political and diplomatic media from the University of Khartoum.</p>  |
| <p><b>Al-Sayyid Mustafa Abu al-Khair</b></p> | <p>is an expert in international law and international relations and a lawyer at the Egyptian Court of Cassation. He has authored numerous books and published studies in the field of international law. Al- Khair was a professor of international public law at the Omar Mukhtar University's College of Law in al-Bayda, Libya. He holds a master's degree in International Law from the Faculty of Law, Ain Shams University and a doctorate from the University of Zagazig.</p> |

| Participant              | Biography   |
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| <b>Amal al-Malki</b>     | is associate teaching professor of English at Carnegie Mellon University and executive director of the Translation and Interpreting Institute, Hamad bin Khalifa University-Qatar Foundation. She is the author of Arab Women in Arab News: Old Stereotypes and New Media (Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation, 2012). Al-Malki holds a PhD in comparative literature from the University of London-SOAS.   |
| <b>Amjad Jibril</b>      | is a researcher and editor at the Civilization Center for Political Studies in Cairo (Hadara Center), specializing in Arab affairs and regional and international policy. He has authored a book, Saudi Policy on Arab Issues (Arabic), and numerous peer-reviewed studies. He holds a master's degree from Cairo University's Faculty of Economics and Political Science.  |
| <b>Ammar Jaffal</b>      | is a professor of international relations in the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Algiers 3, and is director of the National Laboratory for Strategic Research. He has held several positions at the University of Algiers 3, including that of director of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations. Many of his papers have been published in peer-reviewed Arab journals. Jaffal holds a doctorate in Political Science from Sorbonne University 2.    |
| <b>Ammar Qahf</b>        | is a member of the board of the Syrian Forum, and executive director of the Omran Center for Strategic Studies. He was formerly research director at the London-based Strategic Research and Communication Center. He has been assistant professor and associate professor at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), USA, and earned a PhD in Islamic studies from UCLA.   |
| <b>Anis Fawzi Qasim</b>  | is a lawyer and a member of the Jordanian Bar Association who was legal adviser to the Palestinian delegation at the Madrid and Washington negotiations. He is a Palestinian member of the defense panel in the International Court of Justice on the case of the apartheid wall. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Birzeit University, and has edited the Palestinian Yearbook of International Law from 1984 until now. He holds a doctorate in Law from George Washington University. |
| <b>Anwar Majid Eshki</b> | is chairman and founder of the Middle East Center for Strategic Studies, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He is also a research fellow at the International Studies Center in Washington DC and a member of the Academy of Political Science in New York.  |

| Participant                     | Biography  |
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| <b>Aql al-Bahili</b>            | is a Saudi writer and journalist. He is active in the human rights field and holds a BA in sociology from King Saud University.  |
| <b>Ashraf Osman</b>             | is a professor of political sociology at Gedarif University in Sudan, and has worked as director of the university's Center for Peace Studies and Development as well as heading the Center for Conflict Analysis at Omdurman Islamic University. His research interests include policies in the Middle East, religious movements, identity politics, and ethnic and cultural pluralism. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Omdurman Islamic University. |
| <b>Asma Abdullah al-Attiyah</b> | is head of the Department of Psychological Sciences, College of Education, Qatar University, and associate professor of special education. She is a member of the Qatar National Committee for Human Rights, and has published research in Arab and foreign specialized scientific journals. She obtained her doctorate in Philosophy of Education with a specialization in Mental Health from Ain Shams University in Egypt.                                  |
| <b>Awad bin Saeed Baqawir</b>   | is an Omani journalist, who works in the politics desk of Oman newspaper. He is head of the administrative board of the Omani Society of Journalists. His writings have appeared in many Gulf and Omani newspapers.  |
| <b>Baqer al-Najjar</b>          | is professor of sociology at the University of Bahrain. He was dean of the Arts Faculty there from 1995 to 1999, and was a member of the Bahraini Shura Council from 2000 to 2002. He has published widely, and received the Sheikh Zayed Book Prize in 2009 and the GCC prize for intellectual and academic achievement in 2014.  |
| <b>Bassem Serhan</b>            | is a professor and researcher in sociology and development, currently working as an expert in the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics of the State of Qatar. Previously, he has worked at the Arab Center for Planning in Kuwait, Kuwait University, at the University of Bahrain, and at Qatar University. He holds a doctoral degree in sociology from American University in Washington, DC.  |
| <b>Bernd Kaussler</b>           | is associate professor of political science at James Madison University, Virginia, USA. He teaches courses on US foreign policy, international security and conflict management, and US-Middle East relations. Most recently, he published Iran's Nuclear Diplomacy: Power Politics and Conflict Resolution (Routledge, 2013). Kaussler is also an associate fellow at the Institute for Iranian Studies at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.          |

| Participant                  | Biography  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Bichara Khader</b></p> | <p>is professor emeritus at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and founder of the Study and Research Center on the Contemporary Arab World. He is the general administrator of the Fondation Méditerranée Nord-Sud and visiting professor in various European and Arab Universities. Khader has also been a member of the European Commission's Group of High Experts on European Foreign Policy and Common Security.</p>  |
| <p><b>Birol Baskan</b></p>   | <p>is assistant professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar. He received his PhD in Political Science from Northwestern University in 2006. He has published in various academic journals, including Politics and Religion, Insight Turkey, Arab Studies Quarterly, and Comparative Political Studies. Baskan is the author of From Religious Empires to Secular States (Routledge, 2014).</p>   |
| <p><b>Bülent Aras</b></p>    | <p>is a global fellow at the Wilson Center, Washington DC, as well as senior scholar and coordinator of the Conflict Resolution and Mediation Stream at Istanbul Policy Center, and professor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabancı University. He previously served as director at the Center for Strategic Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey. Aras received his PhD in political science and international relations from Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.</p> |
| <p><b>Dania Thafer</b></p>   | <p>is a political science doctoral candidate at American University, Washington DC, and has a master's degree in political economy from New York University. Her research focuses on the Gulf region and she has published several articles on the region including a monograph entitled Iraqi Oil: A Looming Shift in Regional Dominance. Thafer is also assistant editor for the Journal of Politics.</p>  |
| <p><b>Dhafer al-Ajmi</b></p> | <p>is executive director of the Gulf Monitoring Group. A retired Colonel in the Kuwait Air Force, he has published articles and studies on issues of Gulf security and is a regular contributor to the Gulf press. In Arabic, he has authored, among other works, Arabian Gulf Security: Its Evolution and Dilemmas in Regional and International Relations (Arabic). He holds a doctorate in Arabian Gulf Security from the British Staff College, Camberley.</p>                         |
| <p><b>Dima Jamali</b></p>    | <p>is professor of management and Kamal Shair Endowed Chair in Responsible Leadership in the Olayan School of Business, American University of Beirut. She holds a PhD in Social Policy and Administration from the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK. Her research and teaching revolve primarily around corporate social responsibility and social entrepreneurship.</p>  |

| Participant                | Biography   |
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| <b>Elnour Hamad</b>        | is a researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, where he is the Academic Supervisor of the Center's website and is in charge of the Arabic Editing Department. In addition, Hamad is the Managing Editor of Siyasat Arabia. He taught at a number of universities in the United States before moving to Qatar where he was the Head of the Department of Art Education at Qatar University. He holds a PhD in Art Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MA from the University of Miami. His first degree was from Sudan's College of Fine and Applied Arts. |
| <b>Emma Soubrier</b>       | is a French PhD candidate in Political Science at Auvergne University and attached to the Strategic Research Institute (IRSEM). Her research is co-funded by the French Ministry of Defence and the Airbus Defence & Space Company, and focuses on the impact of the evolving strategic environment on the security issues of the GCC countries.  |
| <b>Faisal al-Rakh</b>      | is a Tunisian journalist, head of department at the Tunisian News Agency and formerly an information officer at the Ministry of Culture. He holds a BA in Journalism and a Masters in Environmental Communication.  |
| <b>Fatima al-Sayegh</b>    | is a professor of history and society of the UAE, and the history of the Arabian Gulf in the Department of History and Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at UAE University. She is also the managing editor of the Social Affairs Magazine and a member of the Society for History and Antiquities of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Middle East Studies Association and the Union of Arab Historians. She has published many books and research articles, and obtained her doctorate from the University of Essex in Britain.  |
| <b>Fatima al-Smadi</b>     | is a senior researcher specialized in Iranian affairs at the Al Jazeera Center for Studies and has worked as an assistant professor in a number of Jordanian universities. She has many published books and research articles on Iranian affairs. She received her master's degree in Women's Studies from the Jordanian University and completed a doctorate in Mass Communication at al-Allama al-Tabataba'i University in Tehran in 2010, with her thesis examining feminist issues in Iranian films.  |
| <b>Fawziyya Abu Khalid</b> | is a researcher on social and political issues in the Gulf and is a member of the teaching staff of the Department of Social Studies in the Faculty of Arts at King Saud University. Her master's degree, obtained from King Saud University, addressed the social dimension of women's agricultural work in the regions of Asir and Tihama in southern Saudi Arabia. She obtained a doctorate researching women and political discourse from the University of Salford in Manchester, UK.  |



| Participant                            | Biography   |
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| <p><b>Hadi Mashaan</b></p>             | <p>heads the Political Science Department in the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Anbar in Iraq. He has published books and research articles and previously chaired the Department of Behavioral Sciences at Challenge (al-Tahadi) University in Libya. He holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Baghdad.</p>   |
| <p><b>Haider Saeed</b></p>             | <p>is a researcher and consultant at the Iraqi Center for Strategic Studies in Amman, Jordan, and has directed and contributed to many studies on Iraqi affairs. He is the author of The Politics of the Symbol: On the End of the Culture of the National State in Iraq (2009). He received his PhD in linguistics from al-Mustansiriya University, Baghdad in 2001.</p>   |
| <p><b>Hamoud bin Ali Abu Talib</b></p> | <p>is a writer whose column talmih wa tasrih has featured for the past 20 years in the Saudi newspaper Okaz. He has served as a board member of the Jazan Literary and Cultural Club as well as the National Association for Human Rights. Among his many works published in Arabic is his "The Arenas of 2011: Finally, the People Demand". Abul Talib was awarded the League of Arab States' Lisan al-Arab Association Press Article Prize in 2005.</p> |
| <p><b>Hassan al-Derham</b></p>         | <p>is vice president of Qatar University, where he previously served as vice president for research and head of the Civil Engineering Department. His research areas of focus are engineering project management, contracts and qualifications. He has published numerous studies in English in various peer-reviewed journals. Al-Derham holds a PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Glamorgan, United Kingdom.</p>                          |
| <p><b>Hassan al-Khalil</b></p>         | <p>is a writer and researcher in cultural and intellectual issues, and is the editor in chief of the Saudi National Guard journal (Al-Haras al-Watani as-Saudi). Al-Khalil is also president of the Cultural Committee at the National Cultural and Heritage Festival al-Janadriyah.</p>  |
| <p><b>Hatoon Ajwad al-Fassi</b></p>    | <p>is a Saudi academic, historian and writer, specialized in women's history in the Gulf. She is a columnist in the daily al-Riyad, and has published her research extensively in Arabic and English. She obtained her master's degree from King Saud University, and her doctorate in ancient history from the Middle East Department of Manchester University, England.</p>   |

| Participant                   | Biography  |
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| <b>Ibrahim Nagi al-Hudban</b> | is professor of political science at Kuwait University. He holds a PhD in political science from the University of Ohio, USA, and has published many books and articles.   |
| <b>Immanuel Wallerstein</b>   | is senior research scholar at Yale University, USA. He is the author of <i>The Modern World-System; Utopistics, or Historical Choices of the Twenty-first Century; Decline of American Power: The U.S. in a Chaotic World</i> , and <i>European Universalism: The Rhetoric of Power</i> . He founded and was the director of the Fernand Braudel Center from 1976 to 2005. He was president of the International Sociological Association (ISA) from 1994 to 1998. He chaired the International Gulbenkian Commission for the Restructuring of the Social Sciences. He is the recipient of 15 honorary degrees from 13 countries, the ISA Award for Excellence in Research and Practice, the Distinguished Career in Sociology Award of the American Sociological Association, and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. |
| <b>Jaber al-Harami</b>        | is the editor-in-chief of Qatar's Al Sharq newspaper, having been the chief of the Media Committee at Qatar's Special Olympic Committee. Previously, al-Harami was a member of the Executive of the International Sports Press Association and was Qatar's representative to the founding meeting of the Afro-Arab Journalism Organization, in 1998. In 1996, he was recognized by the Arab League as the Arab region's best young journalist.   |
| <b>Jamal Benomar</b>          | is the special advisor to the United Nations secretary-general on Yemen. Previously, Benomar had worked for Amnesty International in London and the Carter Center, an elections monitoring body. Beginning in 2004, Benomar served as the chief of technical cooperation within the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, for four years, and later joined the Human Rights Council.  |
| <b>Jawad al-Hamad</b>         | is director of the Middle East Studies Center in Jordan and editor of the <i>Journal of Middle Eastern Studies</i> . He has authored several books, including <i>Arabian Gulf Security in the New International System</i> , and <i>the Arab Gulf Countries and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: the Linkages and Dynamics</i> . He holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Durham.  |

| Participant              | Biography  |
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| <b>Jeongmin Seo</b>      | chairs the Department of Middle East and African Studies at the Graduate School of International Area Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea. Prior to this, Seo served as a Middle East correspondent in Cairo dispatched by JoongAng Daily Newspaper, a leading Korean newspaper. He holds a DPhil in politics from University of Oxford.   |
| <b>John Duke Anthony</b> | is the founding president and chief executive officer of the National Council on US–Arab Relations, and currently serves on the United States Department of State Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy and its subcommittee on sanctions. He holds a PhD in International Relations and Middle East Studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC.  |
| <b>Joseph Kéchichian</b> | is senior fellow at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and specializes in the Arabian Gulf region. His latest books are Legal and Political Reforms in Saudi Arabia (Routledge, 2013) and Iffat Al Thunayan: An Arabian Queen (Sussex Academic Press, 2015).   |
| <b>Kaltham al-Ghanim</b> | is professor of sociology and co-director of the Humanities and Social Sciences Centre at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University. She has several published research studies addressing family, women and youth issues, and has participated in drafting a number of development policies and programs, serving also as a president or member of the Board of Directors in select development agencies. She holds a doctoral degree in Sociology from the Faculty of Arts, Ain Shams University. |
| <b>Khalid al-Dakhil</b>  | is a researcher in political sociology, a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Palestine Studies and a professor of political sociology at King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. He has been a columnist for London’s Al Hayat newspaper and is widely published in Arab journals. Al-Dakhil received his PhD and MA from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).   |
| <b>Khalid al-Jaber</b>   | is assistant professor of political communication in the Gulf Studies Program at Qatar University. He works as the deputy editor-in-chief of Al-Sharq Daily, Al-Sharq Press in Doha. He also serves as the principal at Global Media Consultants in the United States. Al-Jaber is a scholar of Arab and Gulf studies whose research focuses on media, political communication, and international relations.   |

| Participant                                | Biography  |
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| <p><b>Khalid al-Khater</b></p>             | <p>is administrative director of research and monetary policy at the Central Bank of Qatar, a member of the Monetary Policy Committee and the bank's investment board. He is specialized in monetary policy and political economy and has worked as a visiting professor at Georgetown University and at the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. He holds a master's degree in economics with a minor in mathematics from the University of West Michigan and a PhD in economics from the University of California.</p>   |
| <p><b>Khalid al-Mezaini</b></p>            | <p>is assistant professor at Qatar University (QU) where he teaches at the Gulf Studies Program, and a visiting research fellow at London School of Economics. Prior to joining QU, he was a research fellow at LSE. He has taught international relations and Middle East politics at Cambridge, Edinburgh and Exeter, UK. Almezaini received his PhD in 2009 from the University of Exeter. His doctoral thesis focused on the role of foreign aid in UAE foreign policy. His courses include political economy of the Gulf, international relations of the Gulf and comparative politics.</p> |
| <p><b>Khalid bin Abdullah Muqaybil</b></p> | <p>is an Omani journalist, who has worked in the press and media fields since 1980 at the Omani Information Ministry. He is bureau chief of the Oman Organization for Press, Publication, and Media in the Dhofar province. He holds a PhD in literature from Mohamed I University, Oujda, Morocco.</p>  |
| <p><b>Khalil al-Khalil</b></p>             | <p>is a former member of the Saudi Shura Council. He is currently a consultant in education, administration, and media, and holds a PhD in educational administration from the United States.</p>  |
| <p><b>Liqaa Makki</b></p>                  | <p>is an executive producer and news supervisor at al-Jazeera channel/website and is the deputy secretary general of the Iraqi Forum of Intellectuals and Academics. Previously, he worked as a professor and as head of the Media department at the University of Baghdad. He holds a master's degree in media from the University of Baghdad where he focused on propaganda and psychological warfare, and a doctoral degree in media from the University of Baghdad in news journalism.</p>   |

| Participant                          | Biography   |
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| <p><b>Lulwa Rashed al-Khater</b></p> | <p>is director of planning and quality management in the General Authority for Tourism, Qatar. She previously worked in Qatar Foundation and RAND-Qatar Policy Institute as manager of various research projects on education and family, as well as the academic, social and economic impact of research projects in the state of Qatar. She holds a master's degree in information systems from the Imperial College London.</p>  |
| <p><b>Ma Lirong</b></p>              | <p>is a professor and a PhD student supervisor and serves as deputy director of the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University (SISU), and is a managing vice editor of Arab World Studies. She holds a PhD from Fudan University and a post-doctorate in Arab Studies from SISU. Lirong is a member of the China-Arab Friendship Association and a trustee of the China Association for Middle East Studies.</p>   |
| <p><b>Maan Talaa</b></p>             | <p>is a researcher at the Omran Center for Strategic Studies in Turkey, with a master's degree in political science from the University of Damascus. He works as a researcher at the Sham Center for Political Studies.</p>   |
| <p><b>Mahdi al-Mabrouk</b></p>       | <p>is the director of the Tunis branch of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, a scholar, and a political and human rights activist. He held the post of Minister of Culture from 2012 to 2014. He is a lecturer at the Tunisian University and a member of the Tunisian Academy for Science, Literature, and Arts. He is the author of many books and publications, and has a PhD in sociology.</p>  |
| <p><b>Mahmoud Murad</b></p>          | <p>is a professor of econometrics at the Lebanese University. He has worked as a professor, lecturer, and researcher at several French universities, including ESSEC, Paris 4, 5 and 10. His research has been published in several specialized scientific journals, focused upon analysis and prediction of temporal series in economic, financial and social arenas. He holds a master's degree in applied mathematics from the University of Paris 7, and obtained his PhD in 1973 in Applied Mathematics (Econometrics) from the University of Paris 7.</p> |
| <p><b>Maisa Zuhdi al-Khawaja</b></p> | <p>is an assistant professor at the Department of Arabic, College of Arts at the King Saud University. She is member of the Scientific Committee of the Saudi Literature Chair at the King Saud University, and was previously a member of the Advisory Committee of the Jenadriyah Heritage and Cultural Festival between 2011-2013. She holds a PhD in Arabic Language Philosophy and Arts from King Saud University.</p>   |

| Participant                           | Biography   |
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| <p><b>Majid al-Ansari</b></p>         | <p>is a researcher at the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute at Qatar University, and writes a weekly column in the Qatari newspaper al-Arab. His research interests are concerned with social wealth and civil society. He works with a number of charities in an advisory capacity. He obtained a master's degree in social transformation at the University of Manchester in Britain, and is currently defending his doctoral thesis entitled "Values Indicators for Social Harmony in Qatar" at the Kathy Marsh Center of the University of Manchester.</p>  |
| <p><b>Mansur Hou Yuxiang</b></p>      | <p>is the vice dean of the Arabic Language Department at Beijing International Studies University and executive editor-in-chief of Arabic Studies. He is a scholar of Arabic literature and Middle East affairs and is the author of many studies in these fields. He received his MA from the Arabic Language Department at Beijing International Studies University, and is a doctoral candidate at the Institute of Middle East Studies, Shanghai International Studies University.</p>  |
| <p><b>Martin Hvidt</b></p>            | <p>is professor at the Zayed University in Dubai, and formerly an associate professor at the Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark. For the last decade his research has focused on the economic development of the Gulf countries. He recently published a paper entitled "Economic Diversification in the GCC Countries: Past Record and Future Trends" (London School of Economics).</p>   |
| <p><b>Maryam Rashid al-Khater</b></p> | <p>is deputy director-general of the Doha Centre for Media Freedom, a writer and media consultant, and member of the National Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations. She was previously a member of the Management Council of Al-Jazeera television network, on the Board of Al-Jazeera Children's channel, and on the Standing Elections Committee. Specialized in media and international relations, her regular newspaper column in the Qatari daily al-Sharq is entitled "ink pen". She obtained her master's degree in media from American University in Washington, DC, and is currently preparing her PhD at the Australian National University in Canberra.</p> |
| <p><b>Mastora Sahal</b></p>           | <p>is an assistant professor of economics at the University of Abu Dhabi and previously worked in the Department of Economics at the Faculty of Management Science and Economics at al-Boutana University, Sudan. She holds a master's degree in development from the University of Gezira in Sudan and a doctorate degree in economics from al-Zaiem al-Azhari University in Khartoum.</p>   |

| Participant                              | Biography   |
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| <p><b>Maymunah Ben Aaichouba</b></p>     | <p>is a researcher in the social sciences and has worked as an assistant professor at the Universities of Khemis Miliana and the University of Blida in Algeria. She has carried out a number of research projects on the Algerian family and economic phenomena associated with local communities. She completed a training course in social sciences at the University of Paris 8 and holds a master's degree in sociology from the University of Algiers 2, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.</p>                   |
| <p><b>Meshari Hamad al-Ruwaih</b></p>    | <p>is a researcher on Islamic issues and international relations. Among his books on the subject of Islam is his "States Do Not Go to Heaven" towards a theory of the Islamic agency in international relations. He obtained his master's and his doctorate in international relations in 1973 from the University of Durham, Britain.</p>  |
| <p><b>Mohammed al-Misfer</b></p>         | <p>is a professor of political science at Qatar University. He is a regular columnist for both Doha-based and pan-Arab newspapers, and writes widely on Arab nationalism and related issues. Al-Misfer earned his PhD in Political Science from New York University.</p>  |
| <p><b>Mohammed Ghanem al-Rumaihi</b></p> | <p>is a professor of political sociology at Kuwait University, and previously served as editor in chief of Kuwaiti periodicals and general secretary for the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. An adviser to the Prime Minister's Office, he is also a member of several research institutions and intellectual journals and magazines. He has a number of published books on development in the Gulf and on Arab culture. He obtained his doctoral degree in Social Sciences from Durham University in 1973.</p> |
| <p><b>Muhammad Ahmed Abdullah</b></p>    | <p>is professor at Bahrain University, head of the Center for Bahrain Studies, and a member of the board of trustees of the Institute of Political Development. Formerly he worked as assistant to the secretary for cabinet affairs. He is a member of a number of academic bodies and on the editorial board of several journals. He has a range of publications and received his PhD in political geography from Oxford University.</p>  |

| Participant                                 | Biography  |
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| <p><b>Muhammad al-Afendi</b></p>            | <p>is head of the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies and editor of the journal Current Affairs. He is professor of economics at Sanaa University and associate professor of political science at the Institute for Democracy Studies at Westminster University in London. He received his MA in philosophy from the University of Wales in Swansea and his PhD in political science from Reading University in the UK.</p>  |
| <p><b>Muhammad bin Saad al-Muqaddam</b></p> | <p>is chair of the History Department, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, and specializes in the modern and contemporary history of Oman. He is a board member of the Historical Society of Oman and has participated in many Arab and international conferences and seminars. He received his MA in the history of Omani-US relations from the University of Portland, UK and his PhD in Omani-Iranian relations from Exeter University, UK.</p>   |
| <p><b>Muhammad Fahad al-Rashed</b></p>      | <p>is the executive director of the Center for Water Research at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, and is a current member and former president of the Water Science and Technology Association (a Gulf association) and a member of the World Association of Water Resources. He has authored and edited several books and more than 30 scientific papers on water resources. He obtained his master's degree in 1993, and his doctorate in water science, both from London University.</p> |
| <p><b>Muhammad Salim al-Rashid</b></p>      | <p>is a Kuwaiti writer and journalist. He is chairman of the board and editor-in-chief of the magazine al-Mujtama. He received his BA in science and education from the University of Kuwait in 1975. He has presented a range of research and working papers in the fields of strategic thought, media, education, and politics.</p>  |
| <p><b>Muhsin Salih</b></p>                  | <p>is general director of the Zaytouna Center for Studies and Consultations in Beirut. He is associate professor of Palestinian studies and has published many books, studies, and articles. He received his PhD in modern and contemporary history in 1993.</p>   |



| Participant                      | Biography   |
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| <b>Musfir bin Ali al-Qahtani</b> | is executive director of the Prince Abdulmohsin Bin Jalawi Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, as well as professor in the Department of Islamic and Arabic Studies at the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals. He is an expert in international humanitarian law and is attached to the International Red Crescent. He is a visiting professor at the European Institute of Human Sciences, France. He holds a PhD in Islamic jurisprudence and an MA in Sharia (or Islamic law) politics. |
| <b>Nacer Gherbi</b>              | is a professor at the University of Abu Bakr Belcaid in Tlemcen, Algeria. He is a permanent member of the MIFMA laboratory (Monnaie et Institutions Financières dans le Maghreb Arabe). He contributed to many research projects and holds a PhD in Finance and Banking from the University of Tlemcen in Algeria, where he focused on the possibility of establishing an Optimum Currency Area among the GCC countries.  |
| <b>Naji Abi-Aad</b>              | is chief operating officer of Petroleb, an oil company based in Beirut. He previously served in the Office of HE Qatar's Deputy Premier, Minister of Energy & Industry and was senior advisor to the CEO of Qatar Petroleum International. Abi-Aad holds a PhD in Energy Economics from Grenoble University, France. He has authored over 80 reports and studies on Middle East energy issues, as well as a book on the security of the petroleum supply in the region.   |
| <b>Naser al-Sane</b>             | is a former Kuwaiti MP and head of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption.  |
| <b>Nassar al-Khalidi</b>         | is deputy editor of al-Kuwaitiyah newspaper and executive director of the Qiyas Group for Political Consultancy. He is head of the Arab Network for Public Opinion Polls (Shaar), director of the Performance Assessment Company for Management and Economic Consultancy, and a member of the Strategic Thought Center in Istanbul.   |
| <b>Nasser Bin Ghaith</b>         | is a researcher in international economic blocs, who has worked as a lecturer at the Sorbonne's Abu Dhabi Branch, 2009 - 2011. He has published a book in English on the decision-making process in the World Trade Organization. He holds a master's degree in international law from Case Western Reserve University and holds a PhD in international economic law from the University of Essex in Britain.   |
| <b>Omar al-Hassan</b>            | is chairman of the Gulf Center for Strategic Studies and previously worked as a consultant to the Arab Academy for Maritime Transport (of the League of Arab States) in Cairo and in London and Dublin as ambassador to the Arab League. He holds a master's and a doctorate in management from the University of Cardiff.  |

| Participant                 | Biography   |
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| <b>Omar al-Shehabi</b>      | is assistant professor and director of the Gulf Center for Development Policies, Gulf University of Science and Technology, Kuwait. He was previously an associate at McKinsey and Company and a consultant at the World Bank. Al-Shehabi has also served as economics director of studies at the University of Oxford. He holds M.Phil. and D.Phil. degrees in economics from the University of Oxford.  |
| <b>Paul Stevens</b>         | is a distinguished fellow at Chatham House, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, in London. He has taught at the American University of Beirut from 1973 to 1979, and at the University of Surrey, UK, from 1979 to 1993. From 1993 to 2008 he served as professor of petroleum policy and economics at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, University of Dundee, Scotland, a chair created by BP. In March 2009 he received the OPEC Award in recognition of his outstanding work in the field of oil and energy research. |
| <b>Qais al-Nouri</b>        | is a professor of international relations at Sanaa University and a lecturer at the Faculty of the National Defence Academy in Sanaa. He was the secretary general of the Bayt al-Hikmah (House of Wisdom) in Iraq, and was the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Political Studies published by the House. Al-Nouri served as an ambassador with the Iraqi Foreign Ministry till 2003. He holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Montpellier in France.   |
| <b>Qasim Hussein</b>        | is a Bahraini writer and journalist. He has worked as lead editor and member of the editorial board at the Bahraini al-Wasat newspaper since its launch in 2002. He was editor-in-chief of Mother and Child magazine from March 1997 to August 2002. He is a member of the Bahraini Society of Journalists. He writes a daily column in al-Wasat and oversees the Issues page.  |
| <b>Rafika Ben Aaichouba</b> | is a professor at the Institute of Economic Sciences at the University of Khemis Miliana in Algeria, and a member of the research laboratory on state and local entrepreneurial development at the University of Ain Defla Khemis Miliana. She has undertaken several economic academic research projects. She obtained her master's degree in economics in 2009 from the University of Blida, Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences in Algeria.  |
| <b>Raghid el-Solh</b>       | is an independent researcher and author on Arab and regional affairs, and democracy. He was previously a consultant to the Issam Fares Institute at the American University of Beirut and the UN's Economic and Social Council for West Asia (ESCWA). He is the author of Lebanon and Arabism, published in English by IB Tauris. El-Solh earned his PhD while at St. Antony's College, Oxford University, completing some of his studies at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.   |

| Participant                           | Biography   |
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| <p><b>Rasha Mustafa Awad</b></p>      | <p>is executive director of the Research and Strategy Department at the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Company – Enterprise Qatar, and previously was the executive director of the Egyptian Cabinet: Center for Information and Decision-Making Support. She has published numerous research papers, and holds a master's degree and PhD in Economics from Cairo University, Faculty of Economics and Political Science.</p>   |
| <p><b>Rhea Abraham</b></p>            | <p>is a researcher in Gulf studies at the India–Arab Cultural Center, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India. She has been an associate fellow at the Center for Airpower Studies, New Delhi, focusing on Afghanistan. She has pursued her masters in geopolitics and international relations from Manipal University. Abraham has published various articles, including on the Indian diaspora in the Arab Gulf and Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan.</p>  |
| <p><b>Saad bin Tifla al-Ajami</b></p> | <p>is a former Kuwaiti Minister of Information, and professor of linguistics and media at the University of Kuwait. He writes for the Iraqi al-Mada and the Qatari al-Sharq newspapers. Al-Ajami studied linguistics in France, the United States, and the UK, receiving his MA in 1983 and his PhD in 1992.</p>  |
| <p><b>Said Sultan al-Hashimi</b></p>  | <p>is a researcher on political, intellectual and cultural reform and human rights and has authored many books and published research papers in these fields. He has been a researcher and director of information, research and media at the Omani State Council (1999-2012). He received his bachelor's in Political Science and Economics from Kuwait University in 1999, and his master's in Strategic Studies from the University of Aberdeen in the United Kingdom.</p>   |
| <p><b>Sarhan al-Otaibi</b></p>        | <p>is professor of political science at King Saud University and head of the Saudi Political Science Association.</p>   |
| <p><b>Sati Nureddin</b></p>           | <p>is founder and editor-in-chief of the al-Modon online newspaper, and was formerly the managing editor of al-Safir newspaper. He has degrees in media and political science and has lectured at the Lebanese University and the Arab University of Beirut.</p>  |
| <p><b>Sayyar al-Jamil</b></p>         | <p>is a research professor at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, where he oversees two programs of research: the formation of modern Qatar, and the encyclopedia of the Arabian Gulf. He has taught at universities in Europe, North America, and the Arab world, teaching courses in world history, comparative intellectual history, methods in history and philosophy, Ottoman, Turkish, Iranian history and Arab modern and contemporary history. He holds a doctorate in Modern History from St. Andrews University in Scotland.</p> |

| Participant                  | Biography  |
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| <b>Shamlan al-Issa</b>       | is professor of political science at the University of Kuwait. He holds a PhD in political science and international relations from Tufts University in Boston, USA.   |
| <b>Slimane Zouari Ferhat</b> | is a tenured university professor at the Mila University Center in Algeria and has presented his research papers in many local and Arab forums. He obtained his master's degree in Economics with a specialization in "economic analysis" at the University of Algiers 3.  |
| <b>Steven Hook</b>           | is professor of political science at Kent State University. He is the author of U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power, co-author of American Foreign Policy Since World War II, and National Interest and Foreign Aid. He is a former president of the Foreign Policy Analysis sections of the American Political Science Association and the International Studies Association.   |
| <b>Suhaim Al-Thani</b>       | is a researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha, Qatar. A number of his research papers have been published in peer-reviewed journals since he gained his MA from Royal Holloway, University of London.   |
| <b>Sultan al-Atawani</b>     | is general secretary of the Nasserist Unionist People's Organization in Yemen, and a Yemeni parliamentarian. From 2003-2009 he was the Nasserist Unionist People's Organization MP for District 66 in the Taizz Province.  |
| <b>Taher Kanaan</b>          | is chair of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies' Executive Board. Kanaan has served in a number of academic and government roles, including the Ministries of Development (1998-1999), Planning (1986-1989), and Occupied Territories Affairs (1985). He has participated in designing development policies and programs for the Ministry of Planning in Iraq and was the Secretary of State for Planning in Morocco. Kanaan has also held a number of positions within the United Nations in New York, Beirut, and Geneva. He holds a PhD in economics from Cambridge University, UK. |
| <b>Tawfiq al-Saif</b>        | is a member of the Center for Arab Unity Studies in Beirut and of Amnesty International in London. A Saudi researcher and author interested in issues of political development, he has taken part in many academic courses on philosophy, economics, administration, human rights, and law. He holds a PhD from Westminster University in London.  |

| Participant                  | Biography  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Tawfiq Bu Ishreen</b>     | is a Moroccan journalist, director and editor-in-chief of the Moroccan daily "Today's News". He holds a master's degree in international relations from Morocco's University Mohammed V.   |
| <b>Uhoud al-Baloushi</b>     | is head of the Department of Research and Studies at the Omani Center and a scholar at the Faculty of Education at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. She is a visiting researcher at Cambridge University.   |
| <b>Wafaa al-Rasheed</b>      | is a Saudi researcher and writer. She previously worked as a researcher at UNESCO and, in 2002, as a consultant with UNDP in Riyadh. She is currently the president of the Tamkeen Industrial and Trading Company Ltd. Al-Rasheed has published articles in various Arabic newspapers namely in Al-Hayat and Al-Sharq.   |
| <b>Walid Serhan</b>          | is a researcher in sociology and a visiting scholar at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. He holds a master's degree from the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom and a doctorate from the University of Dublin (Trinity) in Ireland.  |
| <b>Walid Zawkani</b>         | is managing editor of the Kuwaiti al-Qabas newspaper. He holds a BA in literature from the Journalism and Media Department of Damascus University. He is an author and a member of the Arab Writers' Union.  |
| <b>Yasin Numan</b>           | is a former Yemeni prime minister and government minister. He is currently general secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party and was a member and deputy chairman of the Yemeni Conference for National Dialogue. He has a BA in economics from Cairo University and a PhD in economics.   |
| <b>Zayd al-Fadhil</b>        | is a researcher in intellectual and social issues with a particular interest in anthropology. He received his PhD in modern history from the History Department, Arts Faculty, King Abdelaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He has published a range of papers and studies.  |
| <b>Zayd bin Ali al-Shami</b> | is the head of the parliamentary bloc of the Yemeni Islah Party. He has held leadership positions in the Ministry of Education and the President's office. He was a cultural attaché at the Yemeni embassy in Saudi Arabia, and has participated in curriculum design and textbook authoring. He is a member of the board of the International Federation of Islamic Parliamentarians. |





المركز العربي للأبحاث ودراسة السياسات  
Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies



P.O. Box 10277

Street No. 826, Zone 66,Doha,Qatar

tel. +974 44199777

fax +974 44831651

[www.dohainstitute.org](http://www.dohainstitute.org)